

# Exposure Control Areas

WAC 296-856-400

## Section Contents

### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:

**To control employee exposure to airborne formaldehyde and protect employees by using appropriate respirators**

### IMPORTANT:

These sections apply when employee exposure monitoring results are above the permissible exposure limit (PEL):

- The 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA<sub>8</sub>) of 0.75 parts per million (ppm)
- **or**
- The 15-minute short-term exposure limit (STEL) of 2 parts per million (ppm).

Exposure controls WAC 296-856-40010.....	400-2
Establishing exposure control areas WAC 296-856-40020.....	400-3
Respirators WAC 296-856-40030.....	400-5



# Exposure Control Areas

WAC 296-856-400

## Rule

WAC 296-856-40010

### Exposure controls

#### IMPORTANT:

Respirators and other personal protective equipment (PPE) are **not** exposure controls.

#### You must

- Use feasible exposure controls to reduce employee exposures to a level below the permissible exposure limit (PEL) or to as low a level as achievable.



#### Reference:

For example of exposure controls, go to Respiratory Hazards, Chapter 296-841 WAC and find the section, *Control Employee Exposures*, WAC 296-841-20010.

# Exposure Control Areas

WAC 296-856-400

## Rule

WAC 296-856-40020

### Establishing exposure control areas

#### You must

- Establish temporary or permanent exposure control areas where airborne concentrations of formaldehyde are above either the 8-hour time weighted average (TWA<sub>8</sub>) or the 15-minute short-term exposure limit (STEL), by doing at least the following:
  - Clearly identify the boundaries of exposure control areas in any way that minimizes employee access.
  - Post signs at access points to exposure control areas that:
    - Are easy to read (for example, they are kept clean and well lit)
    - **and**
    - Include this warning:

**DANGER**  
**Formaldehyde**  
**Irritant and Potential Cancer Hazard**  
**Authorized Personnel Only**



#### Note:

This requirement doesn't prevent you from posting other signs.

– Continued–



# Exposure Control Areas

WAC 296-856-400

## Rule

WAC 296-856-40020

### Establishing exposure control areas (continued)

#### You must

- Allow only employees, who have been trained to recognize the hazards of formaldehyde exposure, to enter exposure control areas.



#### Note:

- When identifying the boundaries of exposure control areas you should consider factors such as:
  - The level and duration of airborne exposure.
  - Whether the area is permanent or temporary.
  - The number of employees in adjacent areas.
- You may use permanent or temporary enclosures, caution tape, ropes, painted lines on surfaces, or other materials to visibly distinguish exposure control areas or separate them from the rest of the workplace.
- Inform other employers at multi-employer work sites of the exposure control areas, and the restrictions that apply to those areas.

# Exposure Control Areas

WAC 296-856-400

## Rule

WAC 296-856-40030

### Respirators

#### IMPORTANT:

- The requirements in this section are in addition to the requirements found in the following separate chapters:
  - Respiratory Hazards, Chapter 296-841 WAC.
  - Respirators, Chapter 296-842 WAC.
- Medical evaluations meeting all requirements of Medical and emergency evaluations, WAC 296-856-30020, will fulfill the medical evaluations requirements found in Respirators, chapter 296-842 WAC, a separate chapter.

#### You must

- Develop a written respirator program as required by a separate chapter, *Respirators, Chapter 296-842 WAC*, and include the following additional requirements:
  - Require that employees use respirators in any of the following circumstances:
    - Employees are in an exposure control area.
    - Feasible exposure controls are being put in place.
    - Where you determine that exposure controls aren't feasible.
    - Feasible exposure controls don't reduce exposures to, or below, the PEL.
    - Employees are performing tasks presumed to have exposures above the PEL.
    - Emergencies.
- Make sure all respirator use is accompanied by eye protection either through the use of full-facepiece respirators, hoods, or chemical goggles.

– Continued–



# Exposure Control Areas

WAC 296-856-400

## Rule

WAC 296-856-40030

### **Respirators (continued)**

#### **You must**

- Provide employees with powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs) when this type of respirator will provide appropriate protection **and** any of the following applies:
  - A licensed healthcare professional (LHCP) allows this type of respirator in their written opinion.
  - The employee has difficulty using a negative pressure respirator.
  - The employee chooses to use this type of respirator.
- Make sure you replace the air-purifying chemical cartridge or canister as follows:
  - At the beginning of each work shift
  - and**
  - As required by *Respirators, Chapter 296-842 WAC*.